



**US Army Corps
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2007

State and Corps Partnership in Dam Inspections Lauded

By Honolulu District Public Affairs

(HONOLULU – NR-09-07) One year after the Kaloko Dam breach, Hawaii state officials praised the partnership between the state and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in conducting state-wide dam inspections in a press conference held in the Executive Chamber at the state capitol Tuesday. The press conference was held to discuss the state's dam safety program.

Maj. Gen. Robert Lee, state of Hawaii Adjutant General, lauded the Corps' fast reaction and teamwork last year and thanked the Corps for its ongoing efforts to help the state with dam break studies.

"I would like to acknowledge the Corps' good work in conducting the inspections so quickly and being a good partner with the state," Lee said. "They brought in experts from around the country and worked closely with the state to inspect the dams immediately after Kaloko."

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2-2-2 CORPS' DAM INSPECTIONS

A message from Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle one-year after the Kaloko Dam breach says, "The state has taken steps to enhance its dam safety program. State officials, together with the Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, inspected all 136 regulated dams across the islands last year and none were found to be in imminent danger of a breach. The state is also in the process of updating emergency evacuation plans statewide to account for population shifts that occurred in areas surrounding dams and reservoirs. These plans will identify areas and populations at risk as well as critical structures and facilities built in potential inundation areas. We have also established evacuation protocols in the event of an emergency."

The Corps conducted state-wide visual dam inspections in March and April 2006 after the Kaloko reservoir dam breach caused an estimated 400 million gallons of water to speed down-slope resulting in flood damage to homes, a major road and the confirmed deaths of seven people.

Honolulu District Commander Lt. Col. Charles H. Klinge attended the press conference to accept the thanks from the state on behalf of the Corps. Also attending the press conference were State Department of Natural Resources (DLNR) Chairman Peter Young, Department of Agriculture Director Sandra Lee-Kunimoto and Department of Health Director Dr. Chiyome Fukino.

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3-3-3 CORPS' DAM INSPECTIONS

Immediately following the Kaloko disaster, Honolulu District provided geological reconnaissance and technical assistance to Kauai County, DLNR and state of Hawaii Civil Defense.

As the barrage of rainstorms continued to soak the Hawaiian Islands, Lingle ordered the inspections of all reservoirs and dams in Hawaii.

The Honolulu District inspected the Kaloko Dam four days after it failed, on March 18, 2006, under the federal Public Law 84-99 emergency program. Participating in the inspection were representatives from Hawaii DLNR and Kauai Civil Defense. The inspection confirmed Kaloko Dam breached with about 140 acre-feet of the reservoirs' more than 1,400 acre-ft of storage remained.

The State of Hawaii requested additional support from the Honolulu District as a precautionary measure. The Honolulu District inspected 83 dams on the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Oahu and re-inspected four dams on Kauai. Altogether, visual surveys for both actions resulted in 137 dam inspections. None of the dams evaluated were in imminent danger of failure on the date of their inspection. The second round of inspections was conducted under reimbursable funding from DLNR.

At the 2006 Federal Executive Board awards ceremonies held in May, Hawaii Lingle praised the state dam inspections efforts led by the Corps of Engineers, stressing the importance of government agencies working together to make a difference and stated how proud she was of the partnership between the state of Hawaii and the Corps.

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4-4-4 CORPS' DAM INSPECTIONS

Gov. Lingle stated at the ceremony that the Corps accomplished in two weeks what would have taken the state years to accomplish alone. She also said she was pleased the Corps drew upon local assets and when needed brought in expertise from around the nation.

As authorized by the Fiscal Year 2006 Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Act (Public Law 109-234) which provided \$2 million for the Hawaii Water System Technical Studies to conduct dam break analyses in accordance with Congressional intent, and was sponsored by Sen. Daniel Inouye, the Honolulu District is conducting detailed hydrologic and hydraulic analyses of 11 dams. This study will result in maps delineating areas downstream of the dams that would be inundated by water only if the dams were to fail.

The state DLNR is the non-cost sharing sponsor. These studies are being conducted in collaboration with other federal agencies, state of Hawaii Dam Safety Office and participating counties. The 11 dams were selected from the DLNR's priority list due to urban development downstream of the dams.

The dam break analyses are being done by a team of Corps staff and the local firms of Oceanit Laboratories, PB Americas, SSFM International and Tetra Tech. Study findings will help the state determine what kind of warning systems and evacuation plans might be needed in case of a dam break. The studies are scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2007. The study will not establish when or the likelihood of a dam failure.

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5-5-5 CORPS' DAM INSPECTIONS

“These studies involve evaluating various hydrologic and dam failure scenarios, and hydraulic analysis that will result in maps of the downstream areas that will be adversely affected only if the dam were to fail,” said Derek Chow, Corps of Engineers Senior Project Manager.

The products will be used by the State Dam Safety Office and dam owners in the preparation of required emergency action plans.

“I am pleased that the Corps of Engineers continues to play a critical role in evaluating the durability of Hawaii’s dams,” Inouye said. “These studies will provide key recommendations to help the State and counties better understand and mitigate against the potential hazards caused by any dam failure.”

Following the October 15, 2006 earthquakes on the island of Hawaii and in accordance with the Hawaii Dam Safety Guidelines, all dams within a 75-mile radius were required to be inspected for post-earthquake damages. Under the Stafford Act funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and in support to the state of Hawaii, the Honolulu District conducted emergency visual condition surveys of 86 dams on the islands of Hawaii, Maui, and Molokai (within 75-mile radius) and Oahu and Kauai (as a precautionary measure).

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